

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

February 17, 2004
B02/0903US IB/SF/tkö

We claim:

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1. A process for preparing alkylamines by reacting olefins with ammonia, primary or secondary amines under hydroaminating conditions over a calcined zeolitic catalyst, wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst is thermally activated at from 100 to 550°C in a gaseous stream of air, nitrogen, other inert gases or mixtures thereof not more than 24 hours before commencement of the reaction.

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2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst is thermally activated not more than 6 hours before commencement of the reaction.

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3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermal activation is carried out in the amination reactor.

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4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst has not been deactivated by a hydroamination prior to the thermal activation.

5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zeolitic catalyst is selected from among faujasites, erionite, chabazite, mordenite, offretite, clinoptiolite, pentasils, beta-zeolites and boron-containing gallium-containing or titanium-containing forms thereof and also mixtures thereof.

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6. A method of increasing the hydroamination activity of calcined zeolitic catalysts which have not been deactivated by a hydroamination by thermal treatment of the calcined zeolitic catalysts at from 100 to 550°C in a gaseous stream of air, nitrogen, other inert gases or mixtures thereof.

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7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the thermal treatment is carried out not more than 24 hours before commencement of a hydroamination in which the zeolitic catalyst is used.

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8. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst has not been used in a hydroamination prior to the thermal activation.
9. A catalyst obtainable by a method as claimed in claim 6.